

Business News

Mid-level jobs bulk out labor market

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (UPI) -- U.S. jobs that require better than a high school diploma but less than a college degree are poised for an expansion, a study released Monday said.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports about 45 percent of U.S. job openings through 2014 will be in the hidden middle-level job sector, most of them technical jobs that cannot be outsourced, the Chicago Tribune reported Monday.

A Work Alliance study in Illinois, released as part of a national Skills2Compete program, said the mid-level jobs openings in the state should reach 1 million from 2004 through 2014.

"It's a vision, but it's also a framework that state and federal policymakers can use as they look at economic priorities and ways to channel investments," Andrea Ray, Midwest field director for the Workforce Alliance told the Tribune.

Charted on a graph, the image of a robust technician economy belies a popular misconception. Most assume of the job market is heaviest on the low-end of the spectrum and the high-end, the report said.

The Bureau of Labor statistics says 33 percent of job openings involve occupations requiring a high degree of skills, while 22 percent of the jobs are in the low-skill category, the report said.